

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A user interface for controlling an ultrasound system, comprising:

a plurality of selectable elements for controlling operation of the ultrasound system;
and

a plurality of identifiers, each identifier corresponding to one of the plurality of selectable elements and associating control commands with the selectable elements, the plurality of selectable elements operable responsive to voice commands and configured to change based on a mode of operation of the ultrasound system, the plurality of identifiers remaining the same for each of the modes of operation and operable to activate the associated control command of the selectable element based on the mode of operation.

2. (original) A user interface in accordance with claim 1, wherein the plurality of selectable elements are configured for manual selection.

3. (canceled)

4. (original) A user interface in accordance with claim 3, wherein the plurality of identifiers are voice control identifiers associating the voice commands with the plurality of selectable elements.

5. (original) A user interface in accordance with claim 1, wherein the plurality of selectable elements comprise icons.

6. (original) A user interface in accordance with claim 1, wherein the plurality of selectable elements are configured in a matrix arrangement.

7. (original) A user interface in accordance with claim 1, wherein the plurality of selectable elements comprises a first set of selectable elements and a second set of selectable elements, and wherein the first set of selectable elements is fixed and the second set of selectable elements is configured to change based upon a mode of operation of the ultrasound system.

8. (original) A user interface in accordance with claim 1, wherein the plurality of selectable elements comprise one or more mode selection elements.

9. (original) A user interface in accordance with claim 1, further comprising a voice control input for receiving voice control commands, the identifiers associating the voice control commands with the plurality of selectable elements.

10. (original) A user interface in accordance with claim 9, wherein the voice control commands comprise command words corresponding to one or more of the plurality of selectable elements.

11. (original) A user interface in accordance with claim 1, further comprising a database having stored therein the control commands and a lookup table with addresses associating the selectable elements corresponding to the identifiers with the control commands stored within the database.

12. (currently amended) A voice controlled ultrasound system, comprising:

a user input providing selection of one or more of a plurality of control commands for controlling the ultrasound system; and

a voice control input for receiving voice commands corresponding to control commands for controlling the ultrasound system, the control commands provided based on a mode of operation of the ultrasound system and including a plurality of generic voice commands, the plurality of generic voice commands unchanged for each of the modes of operation and corresponding to different control commands based on the mode of operation.

13. (original) A voice controlled ultrasound system in accordance with claim 12, wherein the user input is configured to display voice command identifiers corresponding to each of the plurality of control commands and associating the voice commands with the control commands.

14. (original) A voice controlled ultrasound system in accordance with claim 12, wherein the user input comprises a display for displaying a voice command matrix defining voice command identifiers corresponding to each of the control commands.

15. (original) A voice controlled ultrasound system in accordance with claim 12, wherein the voice control input comprises one of a wired or wireless microphone.

16. (original) A voice controlled ultrasound system in accordance with claim 12, wherein the user input is configured for manual selection of the plurality of control commands.

17. (original) A voice controlled ultrasound system in accordance with claim 12, further comprising a database having stored therein the control commands and a lookup table with addresses associating the voice commands with the control commands stored within the database.

18. (currently amended) A method for controlling an ultrasound system, the method comprising:

receiving an audio input;

determining voice commands within the audio input; and

associating the voice command with a control command to control the operation of the ultrasound system and if the voice command is a generic voice command, determining the mode of operation of the ultrasound system and translating the generic voice command to a corresponding physical control input, the corresponding physical control input different for different modes of operation with the generic voice command unchanged for each of the modes of operation.

19. (original) A method in accordance with claim 18, wherein the voice commands comprise one or more identifiers, and further comprising associating the one or more identifiers with operations for controlling the ultrasound system.

20. (original) A method in accordance with claim 18, further comprising receiving manual user inputs for controlling the ultrasound system.

21. (original) A method in accordance with claim 18, wherein the voice commands comprise word commands corresponding to one or more operations.

22. (original) A method in accordance with claim 18, wherein the associated control commands change based upon a mode of operation of the ultrasound system.

23. (original) A method in accordance with claim 18, wherein the associating comprises accessing a database having stored therein the control commands and a lookup table with addresses for associating the voice commands with the control commands stored within the database.

24. (new) A user interface in accordance with claim 1, wherein the plurality of identifiers each comprise a single letter and a single number.